



Republican Policy Committee

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Daschle Welfare "Reform" Just Phony Change

- ***Exempts most welfare recipients from so-called "work."*** The Daschle bill appears to require that 50 percent of cash welfare recipients to be engaged in "work-related activities" by FY 2000. However, according to CBO, exemptions contained in the Daschle bill eliminate 25 percent of welfare recipients from its soft-on-work mandate. **Only 37.5 percent of recipients will fall under the Daschle soft-on-work requirement. Looked at another way, 62.5 percent of welfare recipients won't be required to work — at all.**
- ***Imposes Washington-knows-best solutions.*** The Daschle bill proposes to replace one set of failed Washington rules with another, and **asks America to trust Federal bureaucrats to fix the problem they created.** The Senate leadership proposal, on the other hand, allows states the flexibility they need to craft solutions that are right for their citizens.
- ***Spends more, not less, on AFDC.*** Welfare reform that doesn't spend working Americans' tax dollars more frugally isn't real welfare reform, and the Daschle bill isn't real welfare reform. **It boosts spending on a new AFDC program by \$16 billion, according to preliminary CBO estimates.**
- ***Doesn't contain real time limits on welfare recipients.*** While it claims to impose a five-year limit on welfare, in fact the Daschle bill **sports four pages of exemptions to the five-year limit that would allow some beneficiaries to receive benefits for up to eight years.** In addition, under the Daschle bill, no one is ever actually removed from the welfare rolls. **Once eligibility for cash benefits expire, the household would then receive Federal vouchers. No time limit would apply to these vouchers.**
- ***Redlines welfare dependency.*** Under the Daschle bill, if a welfare recipient resides in an area with unemployment of 7.5 percent or higher, **none of their time spent on welfare counts toward the so-called five-year limit.** The five-year time limit would not apply to welfare recipients in most major cities.